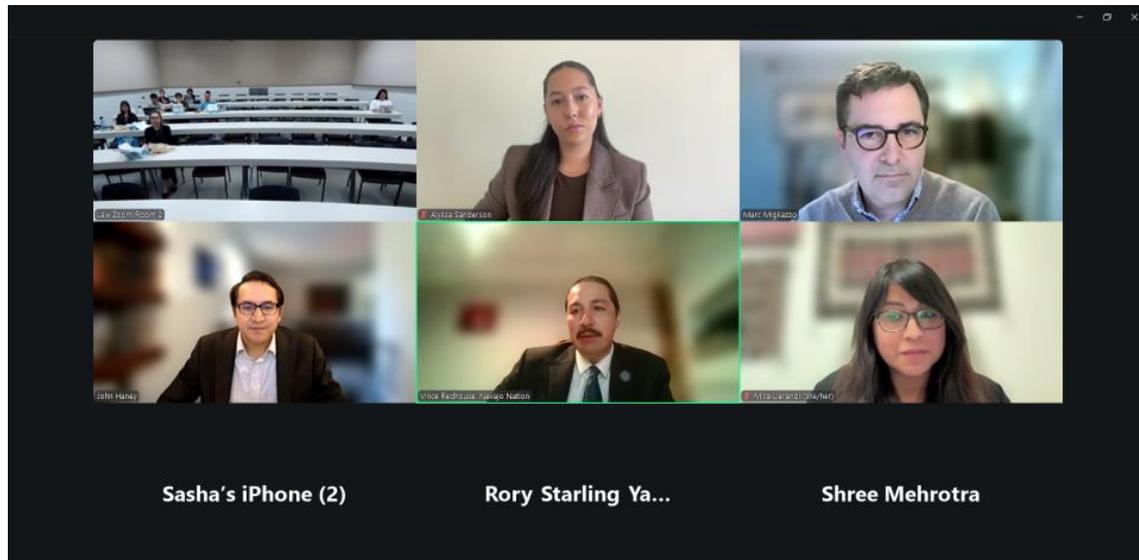




NNWO Director Vince Redhouse Encourages Native Law Students to Lead with Excellence at UCLA Career Panel



Director Redhouse offering advice during the virtual career panel on Thursday. Photo Courtesy of NNWO

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, October 30th, NNWO Executive Director Vince Redhouse participated in a virtual career panel for the UCLA Native American Law Students Association chapter. The other panelists included:

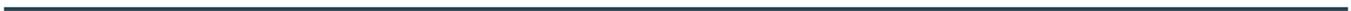
- Marc Migliazzo, a transactional asset management counsel at Ropes & Gray, engages in pro bono work with Native organizations.
- John Haney, a partner at Holland & Knight, practices Native American Law through his employment law expertise.
- Alyssa Sanderson, an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California, gained valuable experience by externing for the Honorable Judge Sykes.

The panel provided students with practical advice on navigating law school, pursuing opportunities in both tribal and federal sectors, and maintaining cultural connection while advancing in demanding legal environments.

Director Redhouse discussed his legal journey and experiences representing tribes throughout the United States, as well as his new role leading the Navajo Nation Washington Office. Speaking candidly about the expectations and realities facing Native attorneys, he spoke on the importance of excellence, preparation, and representation in every professional setting. “We still live in a world that looks down upon us and fails to

try and understand us,” Director Redhouse stated. “When you walk into a meeting or a courtroom, you aren’t just representing your client or your tribe, you are representing all of us. I know this is unfair but it’s the reality. And if you want to achieve great things—which you can do—you will need to work harder and be smarter than everyone else.” Director Redhouse also addressed the current conditions in the federal workforce, noting that while some agencies may face staffing reductions, there remains a strong need for attorneys within tribal governments, federal-tribal relations, and Native advocacy organizations, such as the Native American Rights Fund. “There’s always a need for attorneys in Indian Country,” he said. “If you put yourself out there, those opportunities will come.”

Other panelists echoed similar encouragement for students to stay open to diverse career paths and to contribute to visibility and equity for Native people in the legal field. The discussion concluded with a call for law students to take initiative, seek mentors, and build meaningful careers that reflect their values and communities.



For more information about the Navajo Nation Washington Office, please visit www.nnwo.org